

**Statement of John L. Carwile**  
**Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia**  
**Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**July 30, 2019**

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, Distinguished Members of the Committee:

I am honored and privileged to be addressing the Committee as the President's nominee to be the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia.

I deeply appreciate the trust and confidence President Trump and Secretary Pompeo are placing in me with this nomination. If confirmed, I promise to focus my time and attention on advancing the interests of the United States in the Republic of Latvia. My number one priority will be the security and welfare of U.S. citizens and that of the extraordinary Embassy team in Latvia. I will place the utmost importance on strengthening the already robust partnership between our two great countries and friendship between our people. And I pledge to work closely with this Committee, your staffs, and other Members of Congress to achieve these goals.

I would like to thank my family, friends, and colleagues for their support during my career. I also want to acknowledge our two daughters, Katherine (who is here today) and Madeline (who is in Boston). I am so proud of them as good people and for their accomplishments. I especially want to thank my wife, Karin Hauschild, who has been an outstanding representative of the United States during nine overseas tours.

After 32 years in the Foreign Service, I bring experience and skills that have prepared me well, if confirmed, to serve as the U.S. ambassador to Latvia. I have successfully led large teams both in Washington and overseas, including heading the State Department's economic effort in Baghdad and serving as the Economic Minister-Counselor at Embassy Rome. I have twice been Deputy Chief of Mission, first in Brunei and later in Nepal when the 2015 earthquakes struck as we sheltered over 500 Americans and worked with the U.S. military to provide disaster assistance throughout much of the country.

Mr. Chairman, the United States and Latvia have been close friends for nearly a century. This was exemplified most clearly in the 1940 Sumner Welles Declaration, which forcefully stated the United States' refusal to recognize the forced annexation of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania by the Soviet Union. From 1940 until the full restoration of Latvian independence half a century later, the flag of the Republic of Latvia continued to fly in Washington. The Welles Declaration made clear America's steadfast commitment to Latvia's freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. If confirmed, I pledge to strengthen this commitment and further exhibit that the United States will always remain a friend to -- and Ally of -- Latvia.

Today, Latvia has proven itself one of our strongest Allies. It contributes to security missions across the globe, including in Afghanistan and Iraq. It is among a select group of NATO Allies that meets its commitment to spend at least two percent of GDP on defense and at least 20 percent of defense expenditures on major equipment. Latvia is amongst our most knowledgeable and active partners in combating Russian malign influence not just in Europe, but across the world. It advocates for Ukraine and other states threatened by Russia's aggressive activities.

The ties binding the United States and Latvia are unbreakable. We lead together in NATO with our commitment to collective defense and our defense spending investments. Our economic ties are vibrant. We cooperate throughout Europe and Central Asia in the promotion of democracy, good governance, market economies, and the rule of law. And we collaborate daily to ensure our transatlantic community remains strong and resilient.

President Trump celebrated 100 years of Latvian, Estonian, and Lithuanian independence at the White House on April 3, 2018. As the President affirmed that day in a joint declaration with the Presidents of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, the United States is appreciative of the "tremendous progress achieved by Latvia [and the other Baltic states] in political stability, economic growth, and security cooperation and [their] contributions...to European and international security and advancement of [shared] democratic values." If confirmed, I hope to continue assisting Latvia in advancing across political, economic, and security fields.

Mr. Chairman, if confirmed by the Senate, I intend to strengthen the U.S.-Latvian relationship while advocating for and advancing U.S. interests in Latvia and throughout Europe. I will strengthen our robust security cooperation. I will work to increase our bilateral trade and investment. I will expand upon our already strong cooperation in advancing democracy, rule of law, and development in Eastern Partnership states and across Central Asia.

Strengthening our relationship also means addressing difficult and complicated issues with Latvia. If confirmed, I will press the Latvian government to develop, enact, and implement reforms addressing critical corruption and money laundering threats that persist in the country. And I will support efforts to address Holocaust-era legacies, such as Jewish communal property restitution.

Just over 100 years ago, Latvia declared independence. Throughout those years, the United States remained amongst Latvia's strongest partners. I am honored to have the opportunity, if confirmed, to preserve and enrich that partnership.

I recognize and fully appreciate the honor bestowed upon me by this nomination. If confirmed, I will do my utmost to reward the trust you, your fellow Congresspersons, the President, Secretary Pompeo, and the American people are placing in me. I will focus wholeheartedly on advancing the interests of the United States in Latvia while strengthening our bilateral partnership.

Thank you for your time and inviting me to appear before you today. I look forward to answering your questions.